

Tips for Growing Houseplants



Indoor plants not only provide colour and texture throughout the entire year, but are also quite effective at cleaning indoor air. Here are some general tips for growing tropicals indoors. Note that these are general tips and it is recommended that you ask qualified greenhouse staff for growing tips for any specific plants you may choose.

Temperature

Generally speaking, houseplants thrive in average room temperatures - if you are comfortable with the air temperature, your houseplants will be too. Many will not tolerate cold drafts, so place them in an area where they will not be exposed to such cool temperatures. If your home is quite warm and dry, supplement plants with humidity by misting or placing pots on pebble filled trays with water in them.

Light

Though some species of houseplants will tolerate low light levels (ferns, spider plant, dracaena, golden pothos) many require brightly lit conditions. If you are blessed with a west or south-facing window that gets direct sunlight throughout the year, then that opens you up to several more options for plants. Always keep in mind that the farther from the window the plant is placed the lower the light levels will be. If you do not have a bright area in which to grow light loving plants, you can supplement with artificial lighting.



Watering

Crucial to houseplant success, determining the specific water needs of your plants is very important. Overwatering in particular is the number one cause of plant death. Allow plants to dry out slightly between waterings, and always physically check for moisture by poking your finger into the top few inches of soil.



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Pests and Diseases

Insect pests can come from any number of sources but the key thing to keeping pests under control is vigilance. Check on a regular basis for any signs of insect infestation i.e. chewed leaves, powdery or cottony residues on leaves, deformation of new growth, clear sticky film on the leaves, or yellow or dull leaves. For more information on pests and diseases of indoor plants, check out the What's Bugging section of greenlandgarden.com.

Top Tropicals

Here are some great choices for indoor plants



Spider Plant

These can be grown as hanging or trailing plants, in baskets or pots. Spider plants will survive for a long, long time in less-than-ideal light conditions, including even artificial light.

Golden Pothos Vine

Thriving in low light conditions, this is the perfect choice for people who are away often. Heart shaped, variegated leaves on long trailing stems.



Ferns

Though they thrive in low light, ferns will require sufficient humidity to stay happy.

Snake Plant and Mother-In-Law's Tongue

Some of the best low-light plants. Tall spikes foliage, very easy to grow.



Dracaena

This group includes Ti Plants, Corn Plants and other dracaena species. They're great plants for low-light conditions, and are another great choice for vacationers.



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